

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00846 292004Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4999

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0382

S E C R E T BRIDGETOWN 0846

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR TODMAN WITH PRESIDENT CARTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINR, MOPS, CU, UR, VE, BR, BB

SUBJ:CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 075151(NOTAL), BRIDGETOWN 0841 (NOTAL)

1. BARBADOS TAKES NO OFFICIAL STAND ON CUBAN INVOLVEMENT
IN AFRICA, BUT SEEMS RESISTANT TO ATTEMPTS TO CATEGORIZE
CUBAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA, ETHIOPIA AND RHODESIA
IN THE SAME LIGHT. IN INFORMAL CONVERSATION MARCH 25 PRIME
MINISTER TOM ADAMS SAID CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA BEING
FOLLOWED WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN BARBADOS. DURING MY
FORMAL CALL ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER HENRY FORDE TO
DISCUSS ISSUES RAISED REFTEL, FORDE SAID ANGOLA INVOLVED

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A COLONIAL WAR, A CIRCUMSTANCE HE APPARENTLY CITED IN
JUSTIFICATION OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT THERE. FORDE ALSO
SAID UNITA FORFEITED THE SUPPORT OF MODERATE THIRD WORLD
LEADERS WHEN IT ACCEPTED SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS.

2. FORDE SAID THE GOB POSITION ON CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN
THE RHODESIAN CONFLICT WOULD DEPEND ON THE FATE OF THE

ANGLO-AMERICAN PEACE PLAN. THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER NOTED PUBLICLY LAST WEEK THAT THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE GOB.

3. FORDE SAID CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA WAS DIFFERENT AGAIN SINCE SUCH INVOLVEMENT HAD CLEAR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CARIBBEAN--SPECIFICALLY FOR BELIZE, WHERE A QUESTIONABLE BORDER AND ETHNIC QUESTIONS WERE ALSO AT STAKE. NEVERTHELESS FORDE CONSIDERED CUBAN ACTIONS IN THE HORN AS NOT DEFENSIBLE. FORDE SAID HE COULD HAVE A FORMAL CABINET POSITION ON THE QUESTION BY MARCH 30 IF THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE USG.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DEMARCHE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRIDGE00846
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780136-0942
Format: TEL
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780320/aaaaaaqjx.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 065a81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 75151, 78 BRIDGETOWN 841
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3189962
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA
TAGS: PINR, MOPS, CU, UR, VE, BR, BB
To: CARACAS
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/065a81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014